

# Foster Parents and Caregivers

Changing Lives One Child at a Time

July 2008



## Free Pass to Summer Fun in Washington State Parks

Children's Administration's licensed foster parents and unlicensed caregivers accompanied by foster children in their care are now able to receive free passes to Washington state parks and campsites. Families will still be required to pay a reservation fee, but the overnight camping fee is waived.

The free admission policy is the result of Senate Bill 5010 passed in the 2008 legislature that allows for reduced price or free passes for qualifying seniors, people with disabilities, and Children's Administration's foster parents and unlicensed caregivers accompanied by foster children. Beginning on May 23, 2008, these families will be able to gain free use of campsites and free admission to most state parks in Washington.

**At the entrance of each state park, Children's Administration licensed foster parents will need to provide:**

- Foster home license or foster parent identification card, and
- Valid driver's license.

Please contact your licensor if you would like a foster parent identification card.

**Children's Administration unlicensed caregivers will need to provide:**

- Caregiver identification card, and
- Valid driver's license.

Please contact Michael Luque, Foster Care and Kinship Care Program Manager at 360-902-7986 or [lumi300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:lumi300@dshs.wa.gov) to receive a caregiver identification card.

**Just a reminder:** While the overnight camping fee is waived, there is a reservation fee. Specific sites may have additional site fees as well. For more information go to <http://www.parks.wa.gov/reserve.asp>.

Happy Camping and Picnicking at Washington State Parks!

## Are You Taking the Opportunity to be Heard?

Do you know who your regional foster parent representatives are?

### Statewide Quarterly Consultation Group

The purpose of the quarterly statewide consultation group is to improve communication between foster parents and Children's Administration centered on recruitment and retention of foster homes and effective foster parent training.

Please take the opportunity to be heard, attend your regional – your input is important! Attend your regional quarterly meeting to provide input to the regional foster parent representative to present at the quarterly statewide meeting. Next meeting is on July 15, 2008 Spokane, WA 1:00 to 4:00.

**Contact your regional representatives for more information:**

Regional Foster Parent Representatives

#### REGION 1

Meegan Ware ..... [jamesandmeegan@comcast.net](mailto:jamesandmeegan@comcast.net) (509) 482-2033  
Ginger Schutt ..... [fosmom09@comcast.net](mailto:fosmom09@comcast.net) (509) 535-3398

#### REGION 2

Mary-Jeanne Smith ..... [smithhomes@hotmail.com](mailto:smithhomes@hotmail.com) (509) 240-7356

#### REGION 3

Kim Elke ..... [dandkelke@yahoo.com](mailto:dandkelke@yahoo.com) (360) 354-8087

#### REGION 4

Ruth Graham ..... [rrg47@msn.com](mailto:rrg47@msn.com) (206) 605-0664  
Tess Thomas ..... [TMT3000@aol.com](mailto:TMT3000@aol.com)

#### REGION 5

Debra Converse ..... [president@kitsapfostercare.org](mailto:president@kitsapfostercare.org) (360) 692-1927  
Debra Van Cleaves ..... [deborahac@aol.com](mailto:deborahac@aol.com) (253) 473-9252

#### REGION 6

Amy Gardner ..... [michaelamy52@msn.com](mailto:michaelamy52@msn.com) (360) 200-2102  
Marc Miess ..... [marcimiess@hotmail.com](mailto:marcimiess@hotmail.com) (360) 880-5330

## Hang Up or Pay Up – Washington State Hands Free Driving Law

Starting July 1, 2008 Washington State driving law goes into effect. The new hands-free cell-phone law prohibits the use of wireless device such as a cell-phone being held to your ear while driving.

## Coming This Summer – Centers of Foster Care Health!

The Centers of Foster Care Health (CFCH) will be located in Spokane (Sacred Heart), Longview (Child & Adolescent Clinic), and Seattle (Harborview). Foster parents and caregivers are not required to use CFCH services and can continue to access the high quality health care available to foster children in their communities. However, the CFCH are available if needed.

### **The purpose of the Centers of Foster Care Health is to:**

- Have medical providers who know about the special health needs and concerns of children in out-of-home placement.
- Provide medical care for children in out-of-home placement quicker.
- Help foster parents and caregivers find primary care providers who accept Medicaid in addition to the existing sources of help.
- Help foster parents and caregivers to access to specialty care services such as physical and occupational therapy.

### **Why Do We Need “Centers of Foster Care Health”?**

- Children in out-of-home placement are at higher risk for poor health than any other Medicaid population.
- Children in out-of-home placement often have to switch doctors and start treatments over again. The CFCH will help manage health care and health care information when needed.

Watch the foster parent website and newsletter for more information. Contact information will be provided in future communications.

## Important Resources and Numbers

### **Important numbers to know when you take care of children in out of home care.**

**Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis and Support Line:** 1-800-301-1868.

### **On-Going and Crisis Supports for foster parents**

Under contracts with the state, three private agencies are working to build supports for you within the foster care community. Supports include hubs, support groups and matching new foster parents with veteran foster parents. To get connected:

- If you live in eastern Washington, the Olympic Peninsula down through Pacific County or from Thurston County to Clark County, call 1-888-794-1794.
- If you live in King County, call 206-605-0664 and in any county from Snohomish County north, call 360-510-7601 or 360-863-6530.
- If you live in Pierce or Kitsap counties, call 253-473-9252.
- If you live in Renton Region 4 CARE Counseling, Assistance, Relief and Education 1-888-263-3457 or [www.friendsof youth.org](http://www.friendsof youth.org).

**Family Help Line:** 1-800-932-HOPE or [www.parenttrust.org](http://www.parenttrust.org). The Family Help Line is a free, statewide training and referral line for the families of Washington State. Last year, the Family Help Line received over 5,000 calls and requests for information. Calls can last up to 90 minutes and parents can call as often as needed.

Support for foster parents under investigation for allegations of abuse or neglect: **Foster Parent Investigation Retention Support Team (FIRST)** 1-253-219-6782. Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., or leave a message and receive a return call within 24 hours.

**Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis and Support Line:** 1-800-301-1868.

**Mental Health Crisis Line Information:** The crisis line telephone number for your county or region is available on the DSHS Mental Health Division website at: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth/crisis.shtml>.

### **General foster parent information for the state of Washington**

**FPAWS: Foster Parent Association of Washington State**, 1-800-391-CARE (2273) or [www.fpaws.org](http://www.fpaws.org). FPAWS is seeking new members and supporting foster parents in many ways, including referrals to local associations.

Kitsap and Pierce County information about becoming a foster parent or to receive foster parent support: **Foster Care Resource Network**, 1-253-473-9252. Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message and receive a return call by the next business day.

### **Resource Information Available Statewide**

Get connected to information on resources in your area by calling 211 – a toll free number.

**Children’s Administration Foster Parent Website:** <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/>

**Children’s Administration Foster Parent Training Website** – Trainings are open to all licensed foster parents, licensed relative caregivers and unlicensed caregivers. For information about foster parent and caregiver training, check out: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>

### **Children’s Administration Foster Care Listserv**

Join the 400 people who have subscribed to the List Serve <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=fosterparents&&A=1> for updated information on resources for the work you do in caring for children.

**Family Planning Services** are designed to help avoid unwanted or mistimed pregnancy and are available through your local Community Service Office (CSO). Each CSO has a full time Family Planning Nurse to help provide services to Medicaid eligible clients. There is also a Family Planning hotline number 1-800-770-4334.